

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BUTLER'S GARTERSNAKE STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

MAY/JUNE 2007

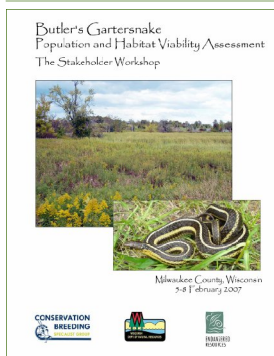
STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP - ACTIONS

Generated at the February Stakeholder Workshop is a blue print for action in achieving Butler's gartersnake protection for the next 100 years in WI. As a means of checking in on progress since February, below are lists of actions identified by the 5 working groups as well as a bulleted list of those that have been initiated.

Actions Initiated

- ☑ Funding for one year has been secured for the Proactive Conservation Program Coordinator position [see page 2 of Newsletter].
- ☑ On March 22nd, a subset of Stakeholders (Socioeconomic working group) gathered to discuss options for an updated regulatory framework with flexibility in design and certainty in process and highlighted landowner incentives the state is now exploring.
- ☑ In early March, a meeting hosted by Milwaukee Zoo was held to coordinate research efforts. This collaborative effort resulted in a State Wildlife Grant for a density study to start in spring of 2008.
- ☑ A twelve page land management guide for Butler's habitat is currently in draft.
- ☑ Data-sharing agreements are being developed for all 72 Counties in Wisconsin.
- ☑ Spring snake surveys are in full swing. Nine new sites are confirmed present.

Population Management	Site Characterization/Prioritization	Communications/ Outreach	Socioeconomic Aspects of Habitat Mgmt	Biological Aspects of Habitat Mgmt
Coordinate research to define, prioritize research needs and avoid duplication of efforts	Develop and apply socioeconomic and biological prioritization scheme to rank sites	Hire BGS Coordinator	Encourage BGS site compatible uses	Obtain mapped sites
Get population density	Review sites proactively not reactively	Develop Outreach / Education Materials	Develop guidelines and encourage use	Determine where management is occurring
Study taxonomy	Revise Conservation Strategy/Tier system and make adaptive	Identify public lands and assist management plan development	Share data for local government planning, preservation, research	Modify existing public management plans
Gather demographic parameters		Develop a proactive conservation/ education/ outreach program for all stakeholders	Organize a tool kit with strategies/outlines	Write a land management guide for habitat
		Encourage additional research by professional scientists, graduate students, etc	Create statutory reference for endangered resources in the Smart Growth Initiative	Maintain geographic distribution of sites
		Make upgraded scientific information available to stakeholders	Update regulatory framework with flexibility in design and certainty in process	Establish habitat management agreements
		Locate, identify, encourage, and promote funding sources	Create workgroup and establish cost allocation by stakeholder	Manage temp impacts
			Identify list of grant options of cost, identify funding resources, & cost saving approaches	Develop, implement a funding strategy for habitat management
			Recommend expenditures to WDNR	Determine/refine habitat preferences
				Define vegetation cover
				Minimum site size to for viable populations?
				Update SEWRPC Primary Env. Corridor
				Overlay private/public land ownership to identify potential linkage
				Monitor habitat change: land use, hydrology, global warming, links



STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP REPORT

The Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Stakeholder Workshop report is off to the presses. Many thanks to all of you who participated! All participants will receive a hardcopy in the mail. The Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) will post

an electronic copy from their website for all to view and download.

Please contact me if you were not a participant, but would like to receive a hardcopy version of the report.



"SITE" VERSUS "PATCH"

To hopefully reduce further confusion in the updated Conservation Strategy, we felt it important to standardize the language specifically the use of the terms "site" and "patch". Both terms refer to continuous areas of Butler's gartersnake habitat. The terms have been used interchangeably in the recent past. "Patch" has been a relatively new addition stemming from the term "habitat patch".

Since "patch" is still relatively

new, we have decided to revert back to the term "site". As before, "site" refers to both the upland and wetland components of the Butler's gartersnake habitat, and may incorporate multiple landowner parcels.

For your use, below is a list of related terms and definitions.

Site - Contiguous area of wetland and upland Butler's gartersnake habitat, regardless of ownership. Barriers to snake movement, such as roads, separate sites.

Population - All of the Butler's gartersnakes occupying a site, who are able to interact with each other but not with snakes from other sites.

Metapopulation - Populations that are spatially separated but are connected through some type of corridor that allows for occasional interaction between populations.

Project Boundary - The area that is being proposed for development or other activity.

PROACTIVE CONSERVATION POSITION

Implementation of the Conservation Strategy has relied heavily on the regulatory approach and thus impacted hardest the development community and private landowners with development interest. Conservation would be much more effective, and the burden on the development community less, if proactive measures were implemented.

The Department has secured funding for one year through a State

Wildlife Grant, to hire a project coordinator to focus on proactive conservation strategies. The position description and scope of the position are taken directly from the results of the February Stakeholder Workshop. Those include:

- Partnering with local and regional agencies to include site data within their park and open space plans via data-sharing agreements; creating management plans; and develop-

ing model zoning ordinances.

- Coordinate with partners to find overlaps and explore restoration opportunities.
- Landowner contact/assistance.
- Develop incentive options.
- Create and distribute outreach and education information.

When the position is posted, I will email out the link.

For More Information Contact:

Terrell Jeanne Hyde * Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources * Bureau of Endangered Resources *
P.O. Box 7921 * Madison, WI 53707-7921 * 608/264-9255 * terrell.hyde@wisconsin.gov